MINISTRY OF PROPAGANDA CONTD.

of broadcasting in Britain. To her the extremist organisations he runs are beyond question. The activities his organisations carried out—including surveillance, blacklisting, break-ins, terrorism and murder—all meet, presumably, with her approval. In fact in her eyes an enobled businessman having dubious 'form' is hardly a reason for concern but a selling point.

When Chalfont takes up his new appointment he will be encouraged to take a direct role in the formulation and implementation of broadcasting policy. He will be given the power to vet programmes, and demand that some programmes be taken off the air altogether. He will also be in a position to influence the quality of broadcasting generally. Already he has been quoted as saying that documentary and investigative programmes are 'unsuitable' for the TV medium, which he believes should concentrate on more 'entertainment' type programmes. And during the furore over the Secret Society series he described producer/writer Duncan Campbell as 'a notoriously disaffected journalist who is known to have been obsessively concerned with revealing to the public official secrets which successive governments of both parties have regarded as being better left unrevealed'. If Chalfont had had his way, the award winning *Death on the Rock*, about the murder of three IRA operatives in Gibraltar by the SAS, would not have been shown. And the three World In Action programmes on the activities of the Economic League would not have left the production room. Chalfont is for censorship and a closed society where the truth has little or no role.

His appointment, of course, is no isolated case, The State has for years controlled the BBC, and governments periodically appoint its heads to see that it stays in line. And there is much evidence of BBC employees having to be positively vetted by MI5. The target is now, clearly, the independent companies, which are to be controlled via IBA policing. Chalfont, it is suspected, will wish to bring in positive vetting for employees of the independent companies too. And if they don't fit in with his political viewpoint then, like a more renowned American blacklister of an earlier period, he will make them unemployable.

By retaining Chalfont's appointment, Thatcher's message is twofold: on the one hand, broadcasting is to come under direct political control; and on the other, murderers and low-life who work for private intelligence firms acting on behalf of the State can receive her full protection.

T.I.

MUJERES LIBRES CONTD.

- the right for women to control their own bodies, to understand them and not be forced to give up that right.
- the right of women to choose their own sexuality freely.
- the deliberate alteration of language which is sexist (especially in the press), ignores women, undervalues them and converts them into sex objects.

The Barcelona collective have already been very active in the few months of their existence. A major campaign has been carried out centred around the suburb of Hospitalet, which has seen a high number of sex attacks against women. A successful mixed march was organised and the area widely leafletted. Much propaganda has been produced and distributed to attract women into the organisation. They also plan to publish a magazine as soon as they have the funds.

Mujeres Libres welcome contact from anarchist women internationally and would appreciate exchange of news and magazines:

Mujeres Libres,
Calle Union 16,
1° 1ª,
08001 Barcelona,
Spain.

NEW EVIDENCE IN FORAN CASE

SINCE THE 23rd of December, Martin Foran has been on hunger strike, as a protest against the conditions he is being kept in at Parkhurst Prison. After winning his court case on 16th of December against the three prison officers who beat him up, Martin was put on 24-hour lock-up, denied association with other prisoners, forbidden to take part in the paltry Xmas festivities on his wing or watch TV, and had his mail withheld sporadically.

These conditions are still being applied to him and the hunger strike is to draw attention to the way he is being victimised for challenging the prison authorities.

He has already lost a considerable amount of weight and is expected to go into the hospital wing any day now, as his health worsens. Concern for Martin is increased as he is already coping with a problematic colostomy.

Ironically Martin has now finished serving his 8-year sentence for robbery and should have been home for Xmas with his family. The reason he is still inside is because he is now serving a 6-year sentence for taking a prison hospital officer hostage to draw attention to his medical problems. The hostage-taking earned him the kicking in Liverpool for which he has just won 750 compensation.

But that 6-year sentence should never have been passed. The prison authorities claimed in court that they knew nothing of Martin's illness until he took the hostage. In fact he had already been seeing various specialists around the country, but his treatment was continually disrupted by his being moved to different prisons. Martin took the hostage out of fear and desperation for his worsening health.

A piece of evidence has come into our hands that was suppressed at Martin's trial and which would have proved to the jury that Martin was being stitched up by the prison service. This evidence—a letter from an NHS doctor to the prison medical **office, dated 29/4/86 (just three weeks after the hostage taking) — is in our possession and we believe that if it had been** produced in court 18 months later that Martin would have been treated far more leniently and questions would have been raised publicly about the prison service's policy of moving around sick prisoners. The appeal against this sentence is still due to be heard.

On a lighter note—a recent episode of the TV soap *Brookside* showed some outside location scenes which were shot in Liverpool city centre. There, behind the cast, and in big bold letters sprayed on a wall were the words 'Free Martin Foran !' As far as we know this is the first time Martin's case has received popular nationwide coverage !

Incidentally, it is Martin's 45th birthday on the 27th February. Birthday cards and messages of support should be sent to:

C51796 Martin Foran,
HMP Parkhurst,
Newport,
Isle of Wight.

News In Brief

BIRDS OF A FEATHER...

To our surprise we received a letter from Patrick Harrington of the National Front stating: *'Contrary to your speculation we did not meet the 'Phoney CNT' when we visited Libya. I believe they were in Tripoli the week before we arrived'*. The NF were obviously aware of the Phoneys' visit to Libya and the denial of actually meeting reminds us of the Irish song about the guy found drunk in the gutter beside a pig: 'You can tell a man who boozes by the company he chooses—so the little pig got up and walked away'.

Harrington went on to deny NF responsibility for the expelled 'Flag' group (but they were part of the fascist totality) stating that the disruption of the NF in 1986 was *'largely the work of an MI5 agent using the codename 'Baronet'*'. In fact the fascist groupings are riddled with police and intelligence agents, not to mention their activists who give information about each other to the State all the time.

REALITY NOW

The third issue of this N American anarchist paper is one of the best reads going, taking the liberal 'anarchist' scene on the sub-continent into the long-awaited class struggle. A wide choice of articles provide the reader with information and debate ranging from prison struggles, to the environment, to the future of policing, to data sabotage, to the latest news from Poland...and much more.
Thoroughly recommended.
Subscriptions are $8 Canada, $9US for elsewhere (cheques to Reality Now).
Available from:

Reality Now,
PO Box 6326,
Station A,
Toronto,
Ontario, M5W 1P7,
Canada.

DAMNED DISCUSSIONS

Brixton DAM are now holding regular discussions on anarchism at 121 Bookshop, Railton Road, London SE 24.

DAM-IWA

Vegan/vegetarian lunch will be provided at 1 pm and the discussions start at 2 pm. All welcome.

Feb 26th : Anarchism and National Liberation
March 12th: Welfare State or Mutual Aid
March 26th: Anarchist Ideas and Town Planning (Hous'ng, Transport, etc.)

If childcare is needed contact Brixton DAM at the above address.

POLL TAX BADGES

A badge-making machine has been set up in Scotland to make anti-Poll Tax badges. Various designs, for further details contact:

Ramsey Kanaan,
3 Balmoral Place,
Stirling,

SAN/FIN CONFERENCE

The Southern Anarchist Network and Free Information Network are jointly holding a conference and social on 18th March at Rivers Street Hall, Somerstown, Portsmouth, starting at 4pm. Queries and info from 0705 731416.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Sheffield ABC have moved address, and may now be contacted at:
c/o Black Star,
P.O.Box 446,
Sheffield S1 1NY

Anarcho-Quiz

1. What was the reaction of the Japanese government to reports that right-wing elements would attack those Japanese criticising Hirohito as a war criminal?
2. Soviet Russia inherited the Gulag system from the Tsarists; which State had adapted it in the name of democracy?
3. What were 'Mickey Mouse practices' in London's Fleet Street?
4. Which internationally known politician backed the Surrealist art movement, but kept it quiet from the general public in case it would spoil his image?
5. Some of the exiled Russian royal family and aristocracy took up jobs in catering or fashion: but in which two trades, for which they had been specially bred, did others succeed?
6. Of the Polish aristocratic families, from whom the kings were once selected, the greatest were the Counts de Potocki—where are they now?

Answers to Quiz

1. A record 32,000 anti-terrorist police pre-empted the right wing by storming the houses of possible critics of Hirohito.
2. The colonisation of Australia (England's Siberia) by sending criminals and entire sections of the population convicted for trifling offences, if indeed such, plus political offenders and national minorities, was modelled on the Tsarist system but was far more brutal, and entailed extermination of the local population.
3. Tax avoidance by casual labour on which the newspaper printers relied heavily (it was nevertheless unionised). It was once alleged in a tax officers' journal some were avoiding tax by giving false names, mentioning one signing himself 'Mickey Mouse'. The press seized on this to attack its workers and it has passed into legend: in fact the signatory was a genuine Michael Moyse and the name had been misread.
4. Leon Trotsky.
5. Living on the taxpayer in 'grace and favour' Royal establishments (in Britain) was one; marrying rich spouses another.
6. One was last heard of as a park-keeper in Odessa; but one, formerly a milkman, came to London in the thirties and (after imprisonment for mild pornography) settled down to running joke royalist leagues and pro-fascist groupings as Pretender to the Polish throne, before finally opting for New Zealand, where his chances of becoming king are thought to be equally possible.

GLASNOST ARTICLE CONTD.

Kropotkin's always have been (he returned when Lenin had just risen to power and was acclaimed by the Supreme Soviet). As Kropotkin was no longer active and his criticisms were never suppressed, only ignored, he has never been treated quite so much as an enemy of the State—which he was. In the last few weeks a leading historical journal has, however, devoted a lengthy article to him (we are trying to get it translated).

But the most intriguing anarchist figure is Nestor Makhno—watch out for him in the Soviet press. He was an active military opponent of the old regime and the rising dictatorship. He never compromised with the regime (as Archinov, his biographer, finally did). He has been depicted in Soviet history as a bandit (sycophantic British historians have copied) and even as a pogromist. Nothing is known about him—though his name is still evoked in Ukrainian folklore as a bogeyman. Now Ukrainian journalists are gradually learning the truth. He won't enter the pantheon of soviet heroes but he may be recognised for the revolutionary he was.

A year or so ago some English attack on a police station or whatever was claimed by a group calling themselves the Friends of Makhno. The press and police actually fingered Ukrainian nationalists, who indignantly denied any involvement—curious that some effects of glasnost may hit Russia before Britain.



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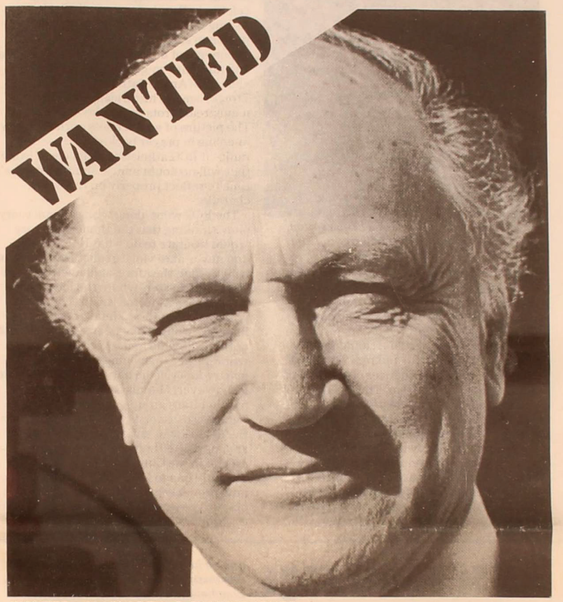
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BLACK FLAG

30p

FOR ANARCHIST RESISTANCE

27-02-89



WANTED:- ALUN ARTHUR GWYNNE JONES
alias LORD CHALFONT. Member of gang wanted for questioning in connection with MURDER and BURGLARY. Other gang members include Peter Hamilton, James 'fix-it' Goldsmith, 'Jules' Lewis and Victor 'Hitler' Norris. WARNING:- Approach these men with care — they are DANGEROUS!

De-Railing The Gravy Train

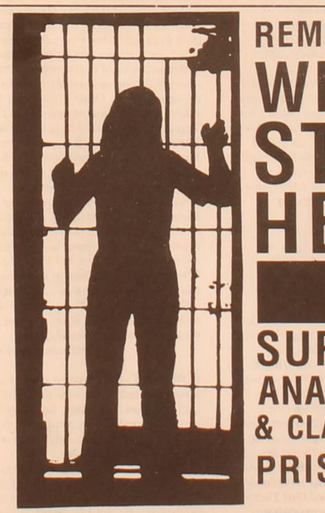
THE GOVERNMENT suffered its first defeat in parliament this term when the scandal broke about British United Industrialists (BUI) channelling millions of pounds to the Tory Party. At the same time the Industrial Trust (IT), which secretly diverts funds to far-right organisations, is currently under investigation by the Charities Commission and the Inland Revenue. More recently, it appears that Lord Chalfont might lose his appointment to a top job at the Independent Broadcasting Authority due to revelations about his criminal associations.

Not so obvious is the connection between these three different cases: it is in fact *Black Flag*. The furore over Chalfont's links to Zeus, the private intelligence agency, took us by surprise as we thought our original expose—published last summer—had been long forgotten. Recently, though, we were approached to provide additional information and within days the story broke in the mainstream press as well as in parliament. Around the same time we were also approached by the press about BUI and the IT, given that we had published confidential information about both several months ago, and consequently the story was taken a stage further. This wider publicity then led to the Government losing to the Opposition over legislation passed in the House of Lords (which didn't want too many upstarts buying valuable peerage space) requiring companies to provide full details of all their political donations (as an example of double standards the Tories wanted companies to withhold these details, while insisting on trade unions getting permission from their members to make similar donations). And the adverse publicity regarding the IT resulted in an investigation into possible 'irregularities': the Industrial Trust has since denied funding Industrial Research & Information Services (IRIS) but *Black Flag* has internal documents from both IT and IRIS proving this claim is false. As for Chalfont his credibilty to hold the IBA job is now in question, but he is so far riding the storm.

All in all the gravy train, keeping the Tory Party running on time and helping anti-worker groups carry on with their subversive work, hasn't exactly been de-railed, but investigative sabotage has at least helped to reveal the extent of its pay load.

See also 'Thatcher Creates Ministry of Propaganda' *page 5*

LATE NEWS. An anonymous tip-off to the press, passed to us, referred to a 'secret meeting' on/by the Industrial Trust at the Engineering Club in Derby on February 11. Our investigations revealed that the club's only meeting on that day was booked by AEU (Amalgamated Engineering Union) Derby & Loughborough convener, Bob Higgins, and that the meeting was attended by John Simpson, the AEU convener for Rolls Royce and who is hoping to become the AEU northern region organiser. Rolls Royce workers will presumably be interested in Simpson's closet connections to such an anti-union outfit as IT.



The second national Anarchist Black Cross conference will be held on the weekend of the 15th and 16th of April. The venue is the 1 in 12 club in Bradford. Food and accomodation will be provided, but it would be appreciated if those wanting to attend would register in advance to give the organisers some idea of numbers etc. Further details and registration details can be obtained from:

Leeds A.B.C., Box JAG, 52 Call Lane, Leeds, LS1

The Papal Auschwitz

WHEREAS NEARLY every schoolchild in Europe will be familiar with Auschwitz, Jasenovac is still something completely unheard of. During the Second World War the largest concentration camp in Yugoslavia, the third largest in Europe at the time, was built at Jasenovac, a small town in the province of Slovenia near the borders of Bosnia. Upwards of 200,000 people, mostly Serbs, were Killed in this notorious 'death camp'. The reason why they were liquidated was simply beacause they were Orthodox believers, instead of Roman Catholics.

The Jasenovac concentration camp was built by Yugoslav fascists, the so-called Ustashi (Ustasa – rebel) who proclaimed the 'independent state of Croatia' in 1941. But this state was anything but independent, being in fact a Nazi satellite endowed by them, following the invasion of Yugoslavia, with a puppet government led by Ante Pavelic—the founder of the Ustasha party.

Jasenovac was a camp run autonomously by the German fascists' accomplices abroad. Jasenovac is a key word in the tragedy of much of the Yugoslav people during the rule of the Nazis and their collaborators. Between 1941 and 1945 in Croatia, 'God's Country', upwards of 800,000 men, women and children were massacred, not to mention the violation of 240,000 who had been forced to undergo 're-baptism'. In Catholic Croatia, all who did not belong to the Roman Catholic faith were forced to convert to Catholicism. Those who refused, and indeed many who complied, were killed, usually after prolonged torture. The removal of the nose, an ear or other bodily parts, such as the gouging out of eyes, was commonplace. The Ustashi exterminated whole districts, shooting the menfolk en masse, hacking them to death with axes, throwing them into rivers, into the sea, or off cliffs. Babies were cut from the wombs of pregnant women and then decapitated. In Kosinj one mother was forced to collect in a bowl the blood of her four sons who were cut to pieces before the eyes of their family.

At least 300 Orthodox priests were slaughtered in unbelievably cruel fashion. The octogenarian Orthodox bishop Platov of Banja Luca was shod like a horse, then forced to walk until he collapsed, whereupon his eyes were gouged out and his ears and nose cut off while fire was applied to his chest: in the end he was given a coup de grace. The Orthodox priests Dusan Subotic and Branko Dobrosavljevic were forced to watch as the latter's small son was literally torn to pieces, after which their hair and beards were torn off and finally they were flayed.

Orthodox believers were herded into their churches to be massacred or burned, buried alive, strangled, quartered, impaled, crucified.

Even fascists were scandalised by the terror of this regime. It is said that 600,000 men were rescued by Italian troops. Even German troops on several occasions raided the Catholic Croats—their own allies—to rescue Orthodox Serbs. So horrific were the Catholic outrages in Greater Croatia that even high-ranking German officers, diplomats, generals and party officials and the SS security branch protested.

continued on page 5

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State of 25th January 1988

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Just missed breaking even on this issue by £6.84—bank overdraft reduced to £4578.28. Our postage and stationery bills are a lot more but people doing the work tend to pay it themselves, as with the interest on bank repayments.

* Donations: JT (London) £10, JW (London) £50, Peter Pax royalties £20.50, JG (London) £10, DL (ex-prisoner) £6, Alex (Corby) £5, JD (Stevenage) £4, LF (London) £9, G (Torquay) £2, H (Nettlebed) £14, P. (London) £1, DR (Rugby) £100, KH (Finland) £20, Mark (Derby) £2, SJ (Norwich) £50.

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Q & A ON ANARCHISM

***Q** What has anarchism got to do with syndicalism?*

A Anarchism is to do with working-class struggle and freedom from the State and capitalism—any imitation which denies this is bound to be reactionary (see last Q & A). Syndicalism is a means of working class resistance which by-passes the State by insisting that working-class organisations created against capitalism or the State for economic defence can be one means of taking over industry—as distinct from the conquest of parliamentary power.

A definition of Syndicalism need not be revolutionary: syndicalist organisations can become reformist and degenerate into orthodox trade unionism, or they can be held as a variant that syndicalism means power by trade union leaders and not by those working. But combined with genuine anarchism it becomes a revolutionary programme for superceding the State and capitalism.

The definition of anarchism that is purely lifestylist and has nothing to do with working class struggle or may even be associated with capitalism comes from deliberate confusion with European liberalism and American individualism—it is a class ploy against both syndicalism and anarchism.

HOME NEWS

Sanctuary Much

THE MYTH that England is a 'haven of the oppressed' is a 19th century hangover, dating back to the Palmerston days of preserving the balance of power by encouraging revolutionaries in Europe. It has long since ceased to be so, but by fighting like mad over the years we (in the Black Cross and otherwise) have been able to get political refugees, in real danger, accepted. Time and again we have had, in the case (say) of Spanish war veterans, to play down their resistance at home and show proof that the victims fought against the Nazis in the Maquis.

We can safely say we have never had nor expected any help from any Trotskyist or neo-Marxist-Leninist organisation. On the contrary, during the Labour Government, they actively hindered where they could exert influence. Nor have Christians or pacifists—even those calling themselves anarchists for trendy reasons—ever helped the hundreds of people in peril. No such massing of people as that in Manchester over the Viraj Mendis affair was ever possible.

Anarchists responded actively in the defence of Viraj Mendis from deportation. It can be said, now that Mendis is back in Sri Lanka, that the Revolutionary Communist Group grossly exploited him for propaganda purposes. Mendis claimed he would be in danger of his life in Sri Lanka, though now back he has said he is no longer into politics and is writing a book on his experiences; also that he regrets using the Tamil cause—which he adopted after taking refuge in a church—as a means of attempting to secure his stay in Britain. Inevitably this realistic reassessment is no doubt a result of pressure from the Sri Lankan authorities who see Mendis, albeit a non-entity to them, as an embarassment. Thus the Sri Lanka government—concerned for its image—will hardly take any action against



Deaconess of the Church of The Ascension, Judith Watkins, prays for deliverance from the RCG

him and has no reason to. Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) has an abysmal record of abusing human rights, but the Trotskyists are part of the Establishment there. They have entered its governments, are part of a ruling family clique, and a powerful and rich Trotskyist faction in Sri Lanka finances one strand of international Trotskyism. The RCG is outside this, a minuscule product of English university neo-Marxist-Leninism, which has embraced Stalinism now that the Communist Party is having doubts about it, but represents no threat to any State. The RCG espoused the Tamil nationalist struggle ever since Sinhalese student Viraj Mendis joined the group. He is not a Tamil and has no connection with the Tamil uprising. (The Tamils were originally a South Indian people who settled in the island long generations ago, and are since independence seen as a 'threat' by the Sinhalese majority, but more particularly by rival para-military groups, following an aggressive guerrilla campaign by Tamil Nationalists. No imperial interests are involved, but the old cheap labour fears are, as elsewhere, invoked).

Viraj Mendis would not have been in danger had not the RCG built him up as a Tamil-supporting resistance fighter, which he was not. Having become a cause celebre in Britain (as a result of the RCG fishing for members and causes) they got people to support him including genuine opponents of deportation for its own sake, and not quite-so-genuine High Church elements (Anglo-Catholicism and British Trotskyism are historically linked but mainstream trots try to play this down). The picture of a Deaconess of the Church kneeling in prayer backed up by seried ranks of RCG atheists is an image of irony that will no doubt amuse Mendis once he's time to reflect properly on the whole charade.

The RCG went along with the sanctuary plan, thinking that the Home Secretary would hesitate to do what Henry II did and never dare violate sanctuary (more of a myth than the aforesaid haven) least of all in Manchester, where the local police have a boss (Alderton) in direct contact with God. Providing Mendis with a 'new identity' would have been a more realistic option, allowing him to live in the real world rather than being thrust into a martrydom role he had no wish to assume. If, however, Mendis is killed by some para-military group—such as the JVP (which isalso trotskyist)—he will become the RCG's own, anti-imperialist, martyr and his deified spirit will presumably ascend in the Church of the Ascension. The only one to lose will be Viraj Mendis, now probably grateful to end up in obscurity away from the limelight of state reactionaries and neo-Stalinist parasites.

Pub Bombings & Pseudo Gangs

THE ARTICLE 'NF Link to Birmingham Pub Bombings' (BF 188) raises some interesting and important points. But comment is needed on two matters of fact:

*(1) The existence of 'Red Flag 74' was 'made known to the general public' via the press. See in particular Peter Chippindale's article 'Police Ready For Worst As Jenkins Acts' (*Guardian *25.11.74)*

(2) The Birmingham NF'er Thomas Watt was used by the Special Branch in Birmingham as an informant (hence the Littlejohn connection) because he was a workmate of John Walker (one of the 'Birmingham Six', innocent of the pub bombings, but known to police as a member of Sinn Fein). His brief was to get close to Walker and pump him for titbits of information on Republican activities in the City.

The question of MI5/Special Branch jiggery-pokery in Birmingham (and of the Littlejohns' presence in the city) deserves serious investigation. One related incident, not mentioned in the article, should also be taken into consideration.

After the Special Branch agent-provocateur Kenneth Lennon (later found dead in a ditch for his trouble) had engineered the arrests of the 'Luton Three' (Sean Campbell, Phil Sheridan and Gerry Mealy) in 1973, for 'conspiring to rob persons unknown at an unknown time and place' (for which the three all received ten years in prison), the police freed Lennon and despatched him to Birmingham. The 'Luton Three' at this point knew neither of Lennon's part on their arrests nor of his release. They were also denied access to their families and friends, and so were unable to communicate with the outside world. Special Branch used this breathing space to send Lennon on one last mission before his cover was blown.

Arriving in Birmingham before the true facts of the Luton arrests were known, Lennon sought out another Irish Republican targetted by Special Branch and instigated a 'plot' to free the very people he had just put behind bars. Several people, taken in by Lennon, were subsequently arrested and convicted of conspiring to organise an armed attack on Winson Green prison.

The IRA has never dodged responsibility for the Birmingham pub bombings. It says only that those who carried out the action did so on their own initiative and without authorisation, and that those convicted are innocent and were never members of the IRA. There is no evidence of any involvement by either Watt or Littlejohn in these particular attacks. Special Branch acted against the Irish Republicans in England during the mid-70s as it has always done against 'target' groups: employed criminals (Littlejohn), fascists (Watt) and people open to blackmail and intimidation (Lennon) in the roles of agents-provocateur and informers. (Witness also the copy-book case of Jack Tierny—a petty criminal and Flying Squad informer, now serving life for murder—during the Angry Brigade investigation. Tierny was taken over by Special Branch from the Flying Squad and used to entrap two members of the Stoke Newington 8 Defence Group by 'offering'—actually, insisting on!—to supplying the Angry Brigade with all the guns it could ever need. Both were cleared of all charges when the case came to court, after police admitted that Tierny had been used as an agent-provocateur).

The possibility that the 'Third Position' wing of the NF may attempt to cash in on other peoples' struggles with their own 'strategy of tension' is always a real danger that has to be faced up to and dealt with. The closest the Birmingham NF ever got to this in the mid-70s was with a series of petrol bomb attacks on Irish clubs in the city, supposedly carried out by enraged citizens in retaliation for the pub bombs, and in helping to organise an anti-IRA demonstration of BL car workers at Longbridge. All these 'spontaneous' outbursts were in fact the work of NF members whose names are known to me. More dangerous, as the article 'Will the Real Pseudo Gang Stand Up' rightly draws attention to, are the growing number of 'experts' on 'terrorism' who seek to create fictitious plots where none exist, or to distort and manipulate any genuine signs of resistance. Birmingham Anarchists have been the target in at least two such cases. Once, in August 1973, when both the Observer *and the* Daily Telegraph *suggested that bomb attacks carried out by the IRA were the work of local Anarchists; and again in September 1977 when the* Daily Mail *printed a scare story suggesting a link between Anarchists in Birmingham and the kidnapping in Germany (by the Red Army Fraction) of the employers' leader Hans-Martin Schleyer (see German Police Invasion* Black Flag *Vol V/No.1 Sept 77). Whilst having no way of knowing whether the recent bomb attacks claimed by a 'Black Liberation Army' in Birmingham are genuine or not, it is prudent to keep an eye open to all possibilities.*

A Birmingham Anarchist

COMMENT: As our comrade says, the IRA never denied involvement in the Birmingham bombings, but they suggested it was carried out by a rogue unit acting on their own intitiative. Such rogue units are ideal for infiltration by agent-provocateurs, just as it has been shown that the SAS unit, the Military Reconnaisance Force, included 'IRA personnel' (ie double-agents acting on behalf of the State)—see last *Black Flag*. Just recently the IRA disbanded a rogue unit operating in Northern Ireland because of certain sectarian killings: the official response of the British Government was to pour scorn, perhaps because this rogue unit had also been infiltrated by State agents and, having been stood down, was no longer of value to the backers of sectarian killings.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Anti-Apartheid Activists Arrested

ON SATURDAY 15th of January two women were arrested in a suburb of Copenhagen on a charge of smashing windows at a Shell station and were imprisoned in isolation for 13 days.

On the next day the police raided the offices of the official anti-apartheid organisation 'Sydafrika-komiteen' (South Africa Committee). During the police search of the offices, four members of the committee (including the Chair, Patrick MacManus) arrived and they were arrested all together on charges of wanton destruction of property and incitement.

The police 'evidence' was a poster showing a famous cartoon character smashing a window and saying 'that's enough!'. The poster also declares Copenhagen an apartheid-free zone. The poster is part of a campaign against Danish multinationals still having financial interests in South Africa and has nothing to do with the attacks on Shell. The campaign—sponsored by the Sydafrika-komiteen—symbolically closed the Danish multinationals' headquarters with painted padlocks, glue in the keyholes and finally leaving painted skulls at the facades of the multinationals (the skull is the mark of the cartoon character the Phantom, who takes care of Justice in Africa).

The Sydafrika-komiteen has also initiated a liberation/theft of teddybears 'detained' by Shell as 'hostages'. When motorists fill up at Shell in Denmark they get a coupon and a certain amount of coupons can be exchanged for cute, soft teddybears—it is an attempt by Shell to charm the consumers and repair the bad image Shell has in the public.

The night before Monday 16th of January a demonstration of 100 anti-apartheid activists, squatters etc, went to the prison where the arrested activists were. Objects were thrown over the prison wall. The crowd was angry and ready to fight so the police prudently stayed away.

On Monday 16th of January the four jailed activists were released but at the same time the police searched the homes of three of them and seized papers and photos.

It is a pattern of repression Denmark has seen before: the police make arbitrary arrests, search the homes of individuals and their friends. The purpose is two-fold: firstly, to pick up some material to prosecute activists with (they seldom find criminal evidence) and secondly to survey, criminalise and marginalise the activists.

Unfortunately the Sydafrika-komiteen tries to balance itself on the edge of semi-illegal action yet keep up the legal political facade. This can be fatal—as when the Chair of the Sydafrika-komiteen renounced, after his release, the political destruction of property and violence, while the whole movement (and the Police) know that the reality is slightly different—and may end end with a split in the Sydafrika-komiteen.

Source: Danish ABC



Squatters defending their homes in Sorte Hest, last year

POLITICAL WITCH-HUNT IN BELGIUM

CHANTEL Paternostre, a Belgian anarchist, has been sentenced to 5 years in prison for allegedly aiding a bombing carried out by the Proletarian Action Revolutionary Front. Chantal, who did an anarchist radio show, denies involvement in the group due to their statist nature.

Chantal was arrested on August 15, 1985. When the evidence against her was insufficient they added the all-encompassing charge of 'associating with troublemakers' (!). The prosecution was based on two locations to which they tried to connect her: at the first—which she admits to having frequented in preparation for a radio show—was found a detonating cap; and at the second, allegedly, was a house where internationally wanted people lived and where was found a piece of fingerprint which might belong to Chantal.

However, in September 1986 she was released due to the lack of a concrete case. She was later re-arrested when a handwriting expert suspected that a signature on a lease was hers, even though in the first examination of this signature they decided there was no conclusive evidence to suggest that it was.

However, being a vocal anarchist, the state feels no remorse in connecting her to bombing campaigns, even when they are carried out by statists. Chantal never got the benefit of being considered innocent until proven guilty—the pressure has been on her to prove her innocence. For more information or to express solidarity with this imprisoned activist, contact:

Alternative Libertaire,
2 Rue de l'Inquisition,
1040 Bruxelles,
Belgium.

Source: Ecomedia

SOUTH AMERICAN NEWS

News has filtered through to us of an anarchist conference held in Caracas, Venezuela in mid-88. Among the 30 or so people present were Armando Garcia (anarcho-syndicalist and head of a local trade union) and the President of the Student Union of Caracas.

Meanwhile in Argentina, the FLA (Anarchist Federation of Argentina) recently paid a visit to the Japanese Embassy in Buenos Aires to hand in a petition demanding the release of Omori.

THE BLACK CROSS IN NORTH AMERICA

AT PRESENT Toronto Anarchist Black Cross would like to see a network across North America of ABC groups or Sympathetic contacts. Recently the Black Cross in Canada has multiplied with the start up of an ABC group in Vancouver.

While groups would work autonomously, it would be essential for them to communicate regularly amongst themselves, through letters, phonecalls, *Mutual Aid* (the internal bulletin of the ABC), other newsletters or papers, or a computer linkup where possible. This network would of course be connected to the international ABC and ABC sympathisers in other countries, and contact should be encouraged with groups in other countries and the setting up of connected groups where there are none or where there is an interest.

The Toronto ABC are willing to help out other people who wish to start up their own ABC groups by sending addresses of other contacts in their area who may be interested in helping out. If individuals in an area wish to get involved they should contact Toronto ABC and they'll forward (with their permission of course) their address to anyone else who contacts from their area. Toronto ABC don't have contacts all over, but will do what they can. If people already have a group which would like to be listed as a contact for prisoner support in a list they already update regularly and publish, then get in touch with Toronto ABC.

If individuals in an area already know that people are considering setting up their own ABC or similar contact, Toronto ABC would be glad to hear from them. Toronto ABC send out Urgent Action Bulletins and the magazine *Reality Now*, as well as other material, to groups or individuals who are active in this kind of work and who wish to receive them.

VANCOUVER FIVE FILM

Both Gerry Hannah and Doug Stewart are out and doing well. Gerry got out on day parole last December, and Doug was finally released on parole recently. They are both doing fine. We have no new addresses for them. Doug is not seeking new correspondence now as he's apparently got plenty on his hands already, and Gerry is working. Brent Taylor and Ann Hansen are still inside.

Julie had got out last year, but was arrested for shoplifting and had her parole revoked. She's now back inside.

On the nasty side, CBC produced a 2 hour TV movie about the Five, or moreover about what they consider the Five to be. Doug, Gerry, Ann and Brent all refused to speak to the slime, but Julie agreed and so the story focuses on her, and how she was 'forced into a life of crime by those evil four'. The CBC gave the actors playing the Five 1,500 pages of wiretap transcripts (!) to better their study on their personalities. However this didn't seem to help them: they still came up with phoney media stereotypes in the place of real people.

The real politics of direct action and the different campaigns around Red Hot Video, Litton and Cheekeye Dunsmuir were ignored and distorted, making the whole thing into a prime-time adventure flick which distorts history. Toronto activists obtained a copy of the movie in advance, then went to the premiere of the movie to distribute a broadsheet containing the writings of the Five. This was done to counter the misrepresentation of the people and politics behind Direct Action. Copies of the broadsheet, which was a compilation of *The Writings of the Vancouver Five* and *Statements of Resistance*, are available from *Reality Now* for a donation to cover postage.

Source: Toronto ABC



Actors playing Ann, Brent and Julie

PERESCABBING—KOREAN STYLE

THERE HAS already been some limited coverage on the Hyundai shipyard strike in Korea—but little about the Russian involvement in breaking the strike. The ship repair arm of the company recently won a contract with the USSR to service Soviet vessels—this coincided with the announcement of the shutdown of the shipbuilding yard. The closure of the yards was eventually carried out after prolonged strikes and following violent attacks on union activists. Union sources say that in fact attacks on workers have taken place over the last 18 months, with the police assisting. Around 60 people have been identified as gangsters hired by Hyundai. Korean Intelligence has also been linked to these gangsters. And company managers have been arrested in connection with a kidnapping of a union organiser.

Despite all this the USSR has ignored demands from workers to boycott the repair yards. The Korean workers view the Soviet government as strikebreakers.

LETTERS

Dear Black Flag,
It was good to read that you could see through the lies and smears of the supposedly investigative magazine Lobster. *Certainly our only concern with the State is to smash it and the absurd lies that* Flamethrower *and* Attack *are part of a State psychological operations strategy are obviously ludicrous.*

But why do you sink to sectarian sniping? Such statements as 'few people take either of these papers seriously' and 'prosperous groupie' should have no place in a revolutionary movement and in fact are extremely insulting.. If you have political disagreements with us (and we're quite sure that you do), then criticise our politics rather than bitch in the gutter.

ND (for 'Attack International')

Dear Black Flag, I was shocked and disgusted to read your 'Will The Real Pseudo Gang Stand Up'. I first read Flamethrower *nearly two years ago and while there was a lot I disagreed with it (such as the emphasis on violence) it was a real inspiration. This was one of the best revolutionary papers I ever read.*

But as far as Black Flag *is concerned—'these papers are read more for their entertainment value'—at least I did take these papers seriously, and at least they did have an entertainment value, something* Black Flag *never has. The only real entertainment value in* Black Flag *is counting the number of articles on Spain.*

Personally I don't give a fuck about MI5 and the war in Ireland or who's in the Economic League. The real problem is capitalism not the odd offsprings of it. Of course the problem with this is that capitalism is an open conspiracy, and you can't cope with that, can you?

The articles in Black Flag *seem to have to be obscure, about conspiracies, about Spain, sectarian, rambling and always, oh always, mention the word 'anarchist' every other line. Your paper is tedious, boring and incredibly bitchy. Stop being so obsessed (and thus blinded) by anarchism, trash everything to do with obscure conspiracy theories and then* Black Flag *might become a readable and interesting revolutionary paper.*

I doubt if you will print this, seeing as it is so critical. You have never been big on self-criticism.

D.T., East London

EDS: Both of the above letters—one handwritten, the other typed but signed with the same handwriting—are from the same person and who produces both papers that *Lobster* criticised. *Lobster* is normally very reliable but, as we said in the article, on this occasion we believe was mistaken. As for 'entertainment value'—a phrase which seems to have got one person's back up at least—this is surely *Flamethrower's/Attack's* get-out clause if any of its readers actually carry out what the two one-off papers advocate and are caught; likewise the two papers' supporters must see it that way too as they are certainly not practising what these papers preach.



WITH A PINCH OF SALT

Enclosed is £50 given grudgingly after much heart searching as to whether the World Wildlife Fund should benefit instead. Ah, the dilemmas and confusions!
(E.Anglia)

MUJERES LIBRES

Fifty-two years ago, a group of Spanish anarchist women, the Mujeres Libres (Free Women), were active in Spain. They were involved with the CNT-AIT and played major roles in many areas of the anarchist struggle, and particularly were important in the Spanish Revolution as well as, later, in exile and in the resistance. Today in Spain the Mujeres Libres has been revived.

Below we reprint an article from the Spanish paper, *Solidaridad Obrera*, which outlines the history of Mujeres Libres and looks at what the re-formed groups are doing in Spain today.

THE MUJERES Libres (Free Women) is an organisation of anarchist syndicalist women, first formed fifty three years ago in Spain. Anarchist women played a fundamental role throughout the 1936-39 period of revolutionary struggle in Spain, with the Mujeres Libres groups representing the most significant organisation within the movement at that time.

The organisation was founded just before the revolution broke out but had met with little success until then. As the revolution spread, membership rocketed—totally unexpectedly—leading to the creation of numerous groups of enthusiastic activists in areas unconquered by Franco's troops.

It was an anarchist organisation that not only fought for the rights of women (something bourgeois feminists at the time were also fighting for) but also for social revolution and the emancipation of all. Its membership—the vast majority working class—reached an estimated 20,000 in its heyday.



Founded in April 1936 by Lucia Sanchez Saornil, Mercedes Comaposada and Amaro Poch y Gascon, the organisation rested on three basic principles:

1) The acknowledgement of specifically feminist issues.
2) The acceptance of anarchism as a revolutionary aim, meaning equality for all regardless of gender.
3) The acceptance of the existence of a contradiction between theory and practice amongst anarchist activists.

The Mujeres Libres expounded a clear plan for the emancipation of women, leading them to be met with disinterest and even a certain amount of hostility amongst some anarchists. Primary objectives proposed were:

1) Women's emancipation through the anarchist movement.
2) Women's liberation, with particular attention to working class women.
3) Achieving equality between activists in the movement.

Mujeres Libres also initiated cultural activities, sometimes neglected due to the special circumstances of the time in favour of the war effort. Among their achievements were literacy campaigns, transmission of radio programmes, the opening of libraries and the organisation of schools and nurseries for refugee children. They also established collectivised restaurants in all town and city districts, and founded the Mujeres Libres Institute, which ran nursing and paediatric courses among other things. Conferences and meetings aimed at widening understanding of social issues were also organised.

Throughout the Spanish Civil War the organisation played an important role in the rearguard, supplying food and clothes as well as working in the munitions factories. Work with prostitutes was also initiated in an attempt to deal with the issue.

After the War ended the organisation was suppressed in Spain, and women fought in the Resistance, in prison and out, while in exile it was re-formed, with Suceso Portales active in making it a reality from London. The wave of enthusiasm following the death of Franco led to it being re-created in Spain. Now a fresh start has been made with a new organisation more or less identical to that of 1936.

They decided that injustice must be fought on three levels. Firstly, on an economic/judicial level (around the penal code and labour laws), although they realise that reforming the law is inadequate and that people's attitudes, customs and social behaviour have to change. In the workplace, they highlight the exploitation and alienation that occurs. Organisation at work has to change for both women and men and no work should be seen as exclusively women's work.

Secondly, social customs and attitudes that place women as second class citizens are exposed (women seen as sex objects, housewives, simply inferior etc). And thirdly, individual relationships are studied to examine machismo in men and self-repression in women. Women aren't considered as a homogenous social class as oppression affects every woman independent of her social class (but in different ways obviously).

Their aim is for a free society of both women and men. They oppose women leaders, rejecting all forms of leadership or manipulation by political parties. They are involved in pro-abortion and pro-divorce campaigns, as well as anti-election propaganda.

On the industrial front, they support various disputes, and plan to launch a magazine, 'Mujeres Libres', to further their cause. They have set up many projects including an advisory service providing information on contraception, a similar service on civil and criminal law, food co-ops and alternative medicine therapy, information on child education , and support services for mothers looking after children.

Following a national plenum of CNT-AIT regions on the 10th and 11th October 1987 in Zaragoza, women attending the meeting resolved to reorganise Mujeres Libres. By March 1988 the Barcelona Mujeres Libres collective had established itself and marched alongside others on International Women's Day, while the Catalan Federation of Mujeres Libres turned up at the CNT-AIT's First of May demonstration.

They have declared themselves to be an anarchist organisation linked to the wider anarchist movement, but independent and outside of any existing organisation. In fact, virtually all of the current Mujeres Libres are members of the CNT-AIT through their workplace syndicates (although membership is open to non CNT women too) and so they are syndicalist as well. They see Mujeres Libres as a way of drawing more women into the CNT-AIT, through the common struggle of women.

The existence of Mujeres Libres is due to the continued discrimination women face at work, in the courts, in relationships and elsewhere. The role of women remains largely unchanged with women still running the family, having children, and being at the beck and call of husbands. Within the anarchist movement, which reflects society, cases of machismo and inequality persist, although often on a more subtle level today.

On feminist, as well as ecological and anti-militarist issues, there exists a gap that Mujeres Libres see needs to be filled. Their aims include the emancipation of women in all aspects of life and to attract women into the anarchist movement. They have drawn up a manifesto of demands, as follows:

1) In the workplace:
- to achieve real equality at work.
- equal pay and the end to women being used as cheap labour.
- Maternity/paternity leave to be extended from 4 months to one year for both men and women, including those who adopt children, without loss of pay and in the knowledge that their job is open to them after a year.
- an end to discrimination against working mothers.
- an end to sexual harassment and abuse at work.
- a resolve not to deal with cases of discrimination or assault on women at work by taking matters into their own hands as Mujeres Libres, but to ensure the union deals with it satisfactorily instead.

2) In the anti-militarist sphere:
- the opposition to the incorporation of women into the army, which is a false equality with men.
- the denunciation of the mass media's obsession with war films and military parades.

3) In the sexual sphere:
- free abortion on demand—opposition to physical and verbal assaults inside and outside relationships.
- a resolve to support and work with prostitutes.
- support for contraception and the need for responsibility to be taken equally by both men and women.

Continued on back page

PAPAL AUSCHWITZ CONTD.

The puzzle as to why this ghastly chapter in contemporary history has managed to remain almost completely unknown in the whole of post-war Europe up to the present day is easily solved if one looks at the organisation in cahoots with the Yugoslav fascists. An attempt has been made to hush up, as if it were a question only of another act of infamy by the Nazis or their Yugoslav confederates, the major role played by the Roman Catholic Church, and the Vatican, in the massacres carried out not only in Jasenovac but throughout Yugoslavia between 1941 and 1945. There is an interest in concealing the fact that the Roman Catholic Church was pulling the strings.

Unlike Hitler or Mussolini who lost the war and thus are no longer in any position to shape the writing of history, the Church's power has remained unchanged right up to the present. That power is largely based on people's ignorance as regards the history of the Church, and the Church is well aware of this advantage and strives at all times and at all costs to cling to it.

The Church has not been able to keep its 'activities' in the Middle Ages from being known. Today it uses every chance and every weapon to keep its recent crimes hidden and to keep afloat the allegation that its misanthropic nature has changed in the intervening years.

BLASPHEMY STILL A CRIME

The results of this misrepresentation of history are reflected for instance in the many cases brought against anticlericals in West Germany under Article 166 and its blasphemy clause.

One example: in 1984 Brigit Romermann of Gottingen was charged with 'slandering a religious confession' (Article 166) in that she had published enlightening documentation on the Church in which, reviewing the considerable record of homicides of the Catholic Church, she deduced that: 'this institution is one of the greatest criminal organisations in history'. The charge was justified with the argument that the fact that the Church has carried out such crimes would generally be known, but with her general formula Frau Romermann was allegedly claiming that the Vatican had not changed and had committed crimes in the modern age also. That, however, is officially untrue and so Frau Romermann's claim was to be considered as slanderous.

Frau Romermann's defence counsel, Gottfried Niemietz of Fribourg, preparing her defence, uncovered a book, *A Century of the History of Salvation* by the noted West German historian Karl Heinz Deschner. In his book he describes the massacres in Croatia between 1941 and 1945, the involvement of many Catholic priests, especially those in high places such as the Franciscan Miroslav Filipovic Majstorovic, commandant of the Jasenovac concentration camp. The Ustasha regime—whose symbol and method of struggle was 'the cross, with the bomb'—was, from beginning to end, a completely Catholic regime and intimately bound up with the Vatican.

The dictator Anton Pavelic (who, even before his terror regime began, had been sentenced to death in absentia in France and in Yugoslavia over a murder charge, and who was held unanimously in 1941 to be '...the year's biggest criminal'—c.f. the London based *New Review*)—was called a 'devout catholic' by the Yugoslav primate Stepinac and a 'Practising Catholic' (!) by Pope Pius XII in 1943. He had been received several times by the 'Holy Father' at the Vatican and had always been sent off with 'best wishes' for 'further works'. This head of state, party leader and leader of government, backed by Hitler and Mussolini, appears in hundreds of photographs along with bishops, priests, monks and nuns. Lots of clergy belonged to the Ustasha party (e.g. the Archbishop of Sarajevo, Ivan Saric. the chaplains of the Ustashi) took their oaths in front of two candles, a crucifix a dagger and a revolver. Clerics held officer positions in Pavelic's bodyguard. Clerics, especially Jesuits and Franciscans, organised massacres, screaming 'Down with the Serbs !' and declaring that 'now is the time for the revolver and the rifle!'

Franciscans were the butchers in the concentration camps. In Jasenovac, as run by the Franciscan Filipovic Majstorovic, 40,000 men were killed in four months. In a single night, the night of 29 August 1942, the Franciscan Brzica had 1360 men decapitated with a special knife. Alojzije Stepniac, the Croat primate, was continually collaborating with the fascist regime. Stepniac and Pius XII met several times at the Vatican where what the 'Croatia of God and Mary' and 'Christ's Kingdom' meant for the Orthodox Serbs was very well known. The Vatican has always been extremely well informed even about the merest things concerning it. How then did it ever fail to learn of the forcible re-baptism of 240,000 Orthodox believers in the 'vicinity', or of the massacre of three quarters of a million Serbs ?

THE UTASHA'S BACKERS

The Italian press of the day spoke of it, and the British press and radio service even more so. Then there were the direct contacts between the Vatican and the Ustasha regime: 'His Holiness' welcomed the Ustashi's ministers, generals and diplomats on more than one occasion. Another interesting fact in this context is noted by Dr Holm Sundhausen of Munich University in his book on Yugoslavia's history, *Geschichte Jugoslawiens* (pub. Kohlhammer Verlag). He showed that in 1937 the Ustasha party had 500 members and after the 1941 proclamation of an 'Independent State of Croatia', between 200 and 500 members. Which means that the Ustashi by themselves would never have been in a position to govern or administer a state the size of a third of Italy. That took organised backing, and that backing came chiefly from three organisations: 1) the Fahrer (Crusaders); 2) the 'Heart of Jesus' Catholic Action Group; and 3) the Eugen Kvaternik Organisation. All three of these groups looked to the Catholic Church.

And after the war also, the Vatican demonstrated its attachment to the Ustasha regime, including Ante Pavelic. He was able to hide out in Italian Catholic moasteries and was issued with a special Red Cross passport by the 'Pontifical Assistance Commission' and thereby enabled to escape to Argentina. There he enjoyed a peaceful existence until 1957 when he died in Madrid. On the day before his death, Pavelic had again received a special blessing from Pope John XXIII.

In 1945 after the collapse of the Ustasha regime those leaders who had not made good their escape were tried in Yugoslavia as mentioned earlier. The Roman Catholic Church, though, washed its hands of them again. The fascist party was outlawed, the Catholic Church was not.

But to return to the present. As mentioned above, Frau Romermann was accused of having slandered the Catholic Church. Her lawyer, Gottfried Niemietz, the best known and brilliant defender in cases brought against anticlericals, repeated in his address the part played by the Vatican and the Roman Catholic Church in fascist Yugoslavia between 1941 and 1945, thereby proving that in recent times, too, the Church has committed unbelievable crimes and that Frau Romermann's charge was consequently, a fair one. One would have expected that she would be cleared but the judges, ignoring that part of history, found her guilty. Obviously they did not have to fear the reactions of an informed public for, with the exception of K Deschner's book, there was no other source available. Niemietz thought that the only way of breaking down this ignorance and the arrogance of the powers would be to shed light upon the true history of the church, and he decided to print a German edition of the the book on the subject by Prof. Vladimir Dedijek, a Yugoslav historian better known as the author of a biography of Tito and as one of the founders of the Russell tribunal (with Jean Paul Sartre). This book, entitled *Jasenovac, the Jugoslav Auschwitz, and the Vatican*, contains a wide selection of documents, contemporary statements and a sketch of Yugoslav history by the publisher, Niemietz, and thus has light to shed on this very dark episode in the Church's recent history.

The response of the Church, which feels cut to the quick, has been stormy: when the Yugoslav edition of the book came out last year, the church promptly pulled out all the prpaganda stops to prevent its publication.

BURNING BOOKS

The Ahriman publishing house, too, has been faced with several attempts to prevent the German edition. Aside from threats against the publishers' stand at the Frankfurt bookfair by exiled Croat Catholics, there was the notable refusal by the *Suddeutscher Zeitung*, a daily paper of good repute throughout Europe, to carry a paid advert for the book. The excuse was that the advertisement contained 'the claim that 800,000 Orthodox Serbs were killed by the accomplices of the Catholic Church and that this claim might result in a lawsuit.'

At the moment heretics and books are not for burning, but censorship on adverts for books is only a deodorised variation of this—for a book, whether burned or denied publicity, cannot get a reading.

It is evident from this how powerful the Church is. Obviously, the Catholic Church is on the move again, from the secondary position into which it was thrust by the French Revolution 200 years ago, a new middle ages is now in the offing. There is the the smell of persecuted 'heretics', of censorship of books, films etc in the air. If this is to be thwarted light must be shed upon history and there must be support for anticlericals in their actions and in their defence.

One Middle Ages should be enough.

N.B. In Britain, today, thousands of fanatical Muslims are protesting against a recently published book by the author Salman Rushdie, and some took part in a public burning of copies of the book. Their complaint?—that it 'blasphemes'. Bradford MP, Max Madden, whose constituents took part in the book burning, has called for the blasphemy laws to be extended to cover all religions. He will quite happily add his name in support of those who oppose blacklisting via the Economic League but, equally so, will seek votes by backing censorship and the blacklisting of books that are critical of religious mumbo-jumbo.

Thatcher creates 'Ministry of Propaganda'

IN RESPONSE to questions raised regarding the illegal activities of a private intelligence company employed to spy on and infiltrate protest groups opposed to the building of a nuclear reactor at Sizewell, Mrs Thatcher has defended these illegal activities by giving her full support to one of the directors of that company who was recently appointed by her to head the organisation that oversees independent broadcasting. The private intelligence company in question is Zeus Security Consultants, whose activities have been catalogued in detail by *Black Flag*, and the director under scrutiny is Lord Chalfont, who is shortly to take up his new appointment as deputy head of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (soon to become the Independent Television Commission with far-reaching powers).

The involvement of Chalfont with Zeus and the financing of that company by Sir James Goldsmith was first revealed by *Black Flag* last summer. The results of our findings were then recorded at the public inquiry into the Hinkley B nuclear reactor programme and more recently further interest in the Zeus affair has been shown by Paddy Ashdown, the leader of the Democrats. Growing evidence against Zeus and its illegal dealings prompted Mr Ashdown to write to the Prime Minister demanding that she reconsider the appointment of the IBA deputy director. Mrs Thatcher's response in the Commons was to defend Chalfont to the full and, by implication, his role in Zeus and the activities of that company, which effectively operated as a privatised arm of the Security Service.

Ashdown's letter to Thatcher—a copy of which has been obtained by *Black Flag*—stated that Zeus were 'engaged by an unknown client for the investigation and surveillance of the objectors at the inquiry into the Sizewell B proposal'—but according to our own enquiries that client was the giant Westinghouse corporation of America, the company that designed the PWR reactor that was to be built at Sizewell, although we now understand that the actual contract with Zeus was placed by a conduit firm in the City. Ashdown also pointed out to Thatcher the fact that Zeus carried on its work after the Murrell murder by simply changing its name to Peter Hamilton (Security Consultants) Ltd and then to Securipol Ltd, companies with which Chalfont retained directorships. Previously this information was only known to *Black Flag* readers, but according to Ashdown neither companies relinquished their connection to Chalfont, whose name still appears on letterheads as a 'consultant'. Ashdown's letter concludes by raising the issue as to whether a privatised Electricity industry will be encouraged to employ private intelligence companies to defend their interests. We know already that, according to the former private investigator Gary Murray, the Central Electricity Generating Board took out a contract with Zeus to check the Sizewell protestors (and, inevitably, construction employees) against lists held by the Economic League, the blacklisting agency. Zeus was also employed by colleagues of Chalfont in the Coalition for Peace through Security (CPS) to carry out surveillance work on CND marches in London on behalf of DS19, the Ministry of Defence unit set up by Michael Heseltine to disseminate disinformation against the anti-nuclear movement. The activities of DS19 and the CPS are well documented. but it was David Mellor, a Tory junior minister, who inadvertantly admitted that Zeus Security Guards Ltd, a wing of Zeus Security Consultants, was contracted to carry out this surveillance work on demonstrations.

Chalfont, of course, is not only connected with Zeus but with numerous loony organisation of the far-right. The Campaign for a Free Britain (CFB) is one such organisation to which he has lent his name. The CFB is fronted by David Hart—the man who helped initiate the scab miners union, the UDM—and argues for the abolition of free education and health care. Another organisation that Chalfont is involved with is the Media Monitoring Unit (MMU), which he, together with Julian Lewis of the Coalition for Peace through Security, helped to launch. The MMU tried to get the BBC-produced Secret Society series banned, while Chalfont himself personally advised Thatcher on getting the Zircon programme taken off the air. The MMU's sister organisation in the States is AIM (Accuracy in the Media), which is part funded by a CIA conduit and partly by Sir James Goldsmith. Chalfont's erstwhile colleague in the Zeus enterprise.

Chalfont also boasts connections to the, now defunct, pro-South African FARI (Foreign Affairs Research Institute), which organised conferences with the para-fascist World Anti-Communist League and which, at its bankruptcy hearing, admitted to being South African funded; to the Campaign for a Free World, a far-right group that includes Goldsmith on its council and which is funded by the Heritage Foundation; to the Institute for the Study of Terrorism, which he heads and which is believed to be funded by a conduit run by Brian Crozier, who ran Soviet defectors with Goldsmith during the late '70's and early '80's on behalf of MI6; and to the Institute for European Defence & Strategic Studies, which is again Heritage funded and includes Chalfont's colleague from DS19, Sir Peter Blaker. In addition Chalfont has extensive business and political links with the Apartheid Regime and in 1987, at a press conference he chaired, he welcomed the Contra leader, Adolfo Calero.

So, this is the man Thatcher thinks is eminently suitable to influence the future

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POLL TAX

Strike Action Pledged

Workers at a number of sites in Scotland have pledged that they will take strike action against the implementation of the Poll Tax. At these workplaces it has been agreed that as from next April should anyone have their wages docked because of Poll Tax defaults then the rest of the workforce would come out in solidarity.

So far firm committments to enact this policy have been made by workers at the Rosyth Naval Dockyard and by CPSA union members at certain Employment Offices. There have also been limited promises of similar action from local branches of the TGWU. The other main unions involved in the implementation of the Poll Tax—namely NALGO and NUPE—have to date refused to provide any committment to strike action.

Obviously this strategy can be adopted by any group of workers as the deduction of wages at source will affect everyone.

As the registration process in Scotland is slowly drawing to an end there is disagreement as to precisely how many have refused to register. Some estimate that 10% have refused but in some areas the figure has been far higher. The refusals led to delays: the registration process hasn't fully ended and yet the programmed completion date was supposed to be the end of October. The authorities apparently caught on to some of the tricks and ended up posting most of the registration forms, asking the householders to merely answer some very basic questions. With the registration process looming for England and Wales lessons from the Scottish campaign will need to be taken into account.

Already councils in England and Wales are locating special offices and recruiting staff for the registration process. It's important that these offices and staff are picketed by the local community as soon as possible. Any snoopers employed must be identified and photos taken and posted about the locality. PR meetings organised by the local authorities can be broken up. Workers to be employed in the registration process should be supported in any boycott action—as well as Council employees these could also include postal workers (delivering the forms), British Telecom workers (involved in tracing) and DHSS staff.

Back In Scotland the non-payment campaign is now gearing up. The idea, if necessary, is to clog up the courts and turn the tax into a farce. To do this the main action groups have decided to work together. Community Resistance Against The Poll Tax, Citizens Against The Poll Tax, the Labour Movement Against The Poll Tax, and the Anti-Poll Tax Unions, have all decided to come together to form a Federation of Anti-Poll Tax Groups. There are now nearly 200 local organisations affiliated to the Federation.

A Tax Against Living

A new law will come into operation on January 1st 1989 which will provide the authorities with extra powers to deduct fines and debts from wages. This law – provided by the Debtors (Scotland) Act 1987 – will enable debts and fines to be deducted by weekly payments or by the seizure of goods.

The authorities have also thought out their counter-strategy against the odd left-wing council that refuses to collect the tax from defaulters. If this happens (which is highly unlikely) the council will in the long run be forced to increase the Poll Tax charge or cut services (both proving unpopular), the Government will furthermore be able to withold grants to that council as a penalty, and individual councilors will be liable to surcharges. For these reasons, despite all the grand rhetoric, no one expects any council to disrupt the collection of the tax. In the final analysis they will all knuckle down and enforce the laws.

In theory the public will get local services – whatever that means these days. But for many these services are either virtually non-existent or of poor quality or they are unable to use them in the first place. An extreme example of the latter is the crofter, whose plight has been highlighted by the general debate on the Poll Tax. Such people often live in isolated areas where roads are not maintained, where there is no electricity, mains water or sewerage, no schools nearby, or access to the usual 'services' others take for granted. The extreme example of the crofter can be supplemented by hundreds of thousands of others who can also make similar claims. And with the privatisation of many services, which will be billed separately anyway and in addition to the 'services' billed for by the Poll Tax, this leaves precious little left for this tax to pay for.

The public is expected to pay more and more for schooling by contributing directly to school resources – but this is in addition to the Poll Tax charge which supposedly helps pay for education. Leisure services provided by councils are now being privatised and charges being increased: the Poll Tax will not pay for these. Libraries are also expected to introduce payment schemes. The roads are meant to be paid for out of the Road Tax. This all leaves very little 'services' which the Poll Tax funds. Street lighting, yes; firefighting services – but there is talk of charges being introduced here too. Certainly not health services – these are paid for by the National Insurance contributions.

When it comes down to it about the only service that, for the moment, is not under risk of privatisation (and that isn't guaranteed either) is the Police.

The real essential services are being sold to the private speculators, leaving us with useless ones that have to paid for in part by the Poll Tax. And with more and more privatisation, it will be policing and other useless 'services' that will take up the greatest percentage of funds gathered via the Poll Tax.

So, for the benefit of increased policing and a handful of dubious other 'services' not yet privatised or only semi-privatised, families will be forced into dire poverty.

The temptation for some will be to try and 'disappear': they will do this by taking illegal work (the 'black economy'), but there has already been much publicised information on how the authorities will track these 'disappeared' down. The latest tracking system is to be organised by British Telecom

The BT scheme will cost 4m to set up and is to be called Information Exchange. Records of individuals will be input by councils into BT's database and their movements logged when they transfer from one council to another. BT estimates that at any one time over one million people will be 'in transit' or not registered with a council. BT hopes to bring together as many information sources as possible to track down these people and inform the relevant council authorities. To avoid being tracked an individual will be forced to not pay taxes, or claim welfare, or be registered with a doctor, or have their children attending school, or pay rent, etc. Theoretically all these things are possible, but for most people they are not. About the only safe option then left would be to emigrate or to go and live and work in mainland Europe. Again, for most people this is just not a practical option.

With all the surveillance systems tied up 99.9% of the population are not going to be in a position to 'disappear' – at least if they tried they will be traced eventually and be faced with a huge backlog of unpaid Poll Tax bills and fines. So, instead, this only leaves two further options. People will either be forced to pay up and suffer the consequences or they will have to take stock of the situation now and make the tax unworkable.

The consequences of failure will be appalling. If the Poll Tax is successfully implemented across the whole country then we will see a system of economic control forced on the population that will enable government to intervene directly in the lives of all of us. The Poll Tax will be a tax on existence itself. Life, seen in this way, will become a comodity, owned by the State and leased back to us in return for regular payments.

Registration Automatic For Jobless

Black Flag has received a copy of an internal document outlining the scheduling of the Poll Tax programme for registration and payment. The document is produced by the London borough of Lambeth but it is expected that most councils will follow a similar programme. The document is therefore invaluable in terms of what we can expect over the next few months. The document is substantial, but we have extracted the more important aspects and summarised these below.

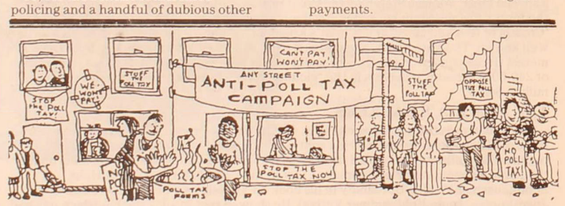
The document states that '...if 10% of the population were not registered, or did not pay...the tax for the remainder will have to be £50 higher to make up for the difference in income'. The £50 quoted corresponds to roughly 10% of the Poll Tax expected to be set for Lambeth. For other boroughs as the rate will be different so the figure for the increase will differ too. The principle will still stand that councils will use any resistance to make non-resisters suffer and so play off one section of the community against another. In this way councils will hope to prevent resistance.

On the registration process the document states that the first postal canvas will take place around the end of April 1989, with postal reminders sent out end of June. Doorstep canvassing is expected to follow in July and August. The council expects most people to be registered by the end of August and a general trawl of anyone who isn't will take place between then and the end of November when the register has to be complete. The council has decided that the computer processing of the Poll Tax registration will be housed separate from the main registration for 'security reasons'.

The document goes on to explain that residents on Income Support will not be given a chance to refuse registration or payment. Registration and payment will be done automatically on their behalf by the DSS. Registration details will be compiled by the DSS via special forms sent to claimants which they are expected to complete. These forms—known as Community Charge Benefit Claims forms—will enable claimants to get a rebate against their 20% payment of the Poll Tax. If claimants refuse to fill in the forms then they will lose their rebate (around 4 a week) and furthermore the DSS will register claimants with the Poll Tax people using existing DSS information. So either way claimants will end up getting registered and paying the Poll Tax. The neat trick is that to get the rebate, claimants will be forced to co-operate with the registration people. Also, once a claimant signs off and gets a job their registration details will already be lodged with the Poll Tax people.

The document next states that every resident will be allocated a unique Poll Tax registration number which will follow that person for the rest of their life. Lambeth asserts, though, that the number in their case, unlike other councils, will not be used to charge against local services (eg libraries, leisure centres)—although, presumably, this policy can be changed at any time in the future.

Companies involved in the registration process on an ongoing basis include Honeywell Bull, McDonald Douglas, and ICL. The document states that tenders were received from each of these companies. Honeywell Bull 'have experience of implementing the Community Charge in Scotland and to date have contracted with over 30 English authorities...'. ICL, it is stated, is 'the market leader' for the supply of Community Charge systems' and 'have extensive experience of implementing in Scotland'. Over 100 English authorities have contracted with them. 28 authorities have also contracted with McDonald-Douglas.



COMMUNITY CHARGES POLL TAX MEETING

In London the local council are beginning to organise open-day PR meetings to discuss the Poll Tax, or Community Charge as they prefer to call it. In reality these open-days are nothing more than recruitment drives to engage Poll Tax snoopers and canvassers in time for next year's registration process.

At one of these open-days, organised by Tory-led Wandsworth Council, members of the local community decided enough was enough and charged in causing mayhem. It all started off as a 'very nice evening'. You could get an information pack, as well as tea, coffee or fruit juice, and the chance to meet and talk to lots of 'really nice people'. So imagine the poor souls when suddenly confronted by an angry woman denouncing the tax while around her other local people threw the information packs around the room, poured paint on the proceedings and let off stink bombs.

Just a few weeks earlier in Labour-led Lambeth the Town Hall was the venue of a Poll Tax public meeting organised by Labour Party Young Socialists. The event was meant to be a debate between the LPYS and Young Tories on the merits and de-merits of the tax—but that's not how it ended up, thanks mainly to some local anarchists who took exception to the idea that the Tories would be given an open platform to argue their case.

After the introductory speeches by both sides questions were called for and one bright spark asked the Tory speaker what flies through the air at 500 miles an hour. Without giving the Tory time to answer the questioner explained, 'Mrs Tebbitt's spinal column'—at which point the meeting broke up into convulsions of laughter and general mayhem. A Tory heckler, councillor Michael Keegan, tried several times to intervene but was simply met by insults of 'Where's 'Mountbatten?' and 'Where's Airey Neave?' Threats flew around the room and local anarchists then proceeded to lob paint bombs, yoghurt and other smelly substances at the shrinking group of radical Tories cowering in the corner. The LPYS chair expressed her 'disgust' at the uncivilised behaviour and dissociated her group from the 'outside agitators'. Ironically, directly below the meeting Lambeth's police committee were talking about riots. Mr Keegan left the meeting totally covered in goo.

COMMENT

AFTER FLEET STREET

The defeat of the London printers at the siege of Wapping was supposed to achieve the consolidation of 'new technology' but the price was higher than that: the printworkers once had the muscle to act as a restraint upon the unscrupulous and dangerous proprietors, who bought up newspapers (where they did not simply steal them from existing proprietors, as is more latterly the case) and manufactured public opinion.

The printers developed their power through wage demands, as a reaction to the gross exploitation and victimisation after 1926 (a lock-out at the *Daily Mail* followed the printers' refusal to set a provocative editorial which precipitated the Government's declaration of a General Strike). The mad desire for revenge on the part of press tycoons was not answered, as understandably in many industries, by capitulation; but by taking every advantage of urgency of speed in the media to threaten or cause stoppage. Journalists have since portrayed the printers as 'greedy' but they took every advantage of print militancy to increase their own rates on the principle that 'when it rains on the bishop it drips on the curate'.

The printers for years were able to curb the excesses of proprietor-dominated journalism. There are instances such as when Glasgow printers declined to print a vicious anti-Irish cartoon in the Express. There have been times when journalists have taken a principled stand on what not to write (they soon got pushed out of the profession) but there has been no lack of literary whores.

This has been heightened by modern technology. Now, electrician, typist, printer and journalist can do (if allowed one another's job at the same time, certainly where unions are no longer strong. There have been in smaller magazines instances where printing or secretarial staff have become journalists and even editors, especially where this does not allow for traditional management roles; we see however a different picture when journalists, chosen solely for their technology know-how and snobbish background, are freed of the constraints placed on them by printworkers, to be even more dependent to constraints placed by proprietors who can turn the technology off at a moment's notice.



The workers-are-always-wrong brigade have blamed the printers for everything the proprietors have indulged in—it is true they haven't at any time taken over the industry, but short of that they did try to stop some excesses. But always the printers were met with the accusation that they were interfering with the sacred freedom of the press. Now, anything goes. The reason why politicians are suddenly concerned about abuse of the press is because some young journalists, only knowing mud slinging tactics, are throwing the mud at the wrong targets: anything juicy about politicos and even the royals, anything to titillate and sell papers; the rich and not-too-powerful are not exempt from the minions drunk with the booze of the tycoons who themselves are drunk with power.

But this abuse of journalistic power is what workers have always had to put up with (from the 'quality' papers no less than the tabloids). Though there was many the time in old Fleet Street when journalists would put aside an article on the abuse of power by the unions to come and plead with the printers representatives to get support on such-and-such a wage or conditions claim.

It will only be curbed when the press tycoons have to take note of the printworkers once again; or when the readers rebel. The failure of the pioneer of the new journalism, leader of the counter-revolution Eddie Shah, to get away with Today or the Post—the first lost to Murdoch, the second 'where he'd got it right this time' sunk without trace after a few issues, proves this.

FOOTNOTE: As an example of the unhappy new serfs we take at random Marek Kohn of the *Independent* and William Henry of the London *Evening Standard*, neither of whom could have got a look in at the doors in the old days. But now hiring journalists is almost a question of knowing if you can type your own copy, providing you have the 'background'.

We mention this pair because they were assigned to the old task of knocking the anarchists, but it's now in a new dimension. William Henry's piece of science fiction is about how 'anarchists' have hijacked animal lib. Anarchists were always good for shock horror by hacks but to this gent—to whom anarchism means violence and only government means tranquillity—anarchists have hi-jacked everything including pacifism! Once they centred on 'the Angry Brigade and fringe political parties'—now they have gone into the mainstream and taken 'em all over, not just animal lib, but 'the peace movement, the health lobby, race relations, sexual equality, the Labour Party...' Will could have added the Tories—Lord Lambton, calling for support in the last-but-one election for Maggie Thatcher, proclaiming her in the same paper to be in the mould of such fighters for freedom as Bakunin ....

Marek Kohn in the *Independent* finds a 'community of anarchists' hidden behind the facades of several London bookshops, giving a full half page to a cultivated piss-take of people who made the mistake of speaking to him. Useless to comment: nobody we know will recognise themselves here. It isn't the first time Mr Kohn's been up to these tricks—next time why not vote with one's feet, connected with the seat of his pants? There'll be no lack of Helpless Henrys to say that's all anarchists know how to do.

Glasnost - Rewriting the Rewriting

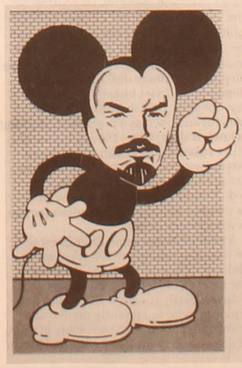
WITH THE current official disavowals of Stalinism in the Soviet Union people are beginning to feel free to speak out about the abuses they have suffered. The truth is coming out in the Soviet press about the long years of genocide under Stalin and the effects it had on Russian society. Gorbachev has realised that this freedom of speech does not necessarily interfere with privileged rule: few German politicians today, even those involved heavily in the Hitler regime, dare or trouble to express any kind words words about Hitler, yet it does not prevent Western capitalism from going on—on the contrary, it helps to keep the country under control. It is the stock in trade of British politicians not just to admit but to glory in past failures of the regime—'under a different government'—and this is used as an excuse to consolidate themselves. Why should Russia be different?

This free speech does not constitute a revolution in itself and it should not be magnified. But it cannot be denied.

ANARCHY IN THE USSR

It has led to complaints about the Soviet system in the public press which equal anything printed in the Western press, even about State communism: at last the government is appreciating a truth never before learned by whatever ruling class in Russia in all its history—that if the press gets credibility by exposing abuses, it can be used to inculcate attitudes. But meanwhile, not to look a gift horse in the mouth, at last there is an opening for revolutionary propaganda, closed since the clamp down of the early 20's. At long last anarchist propaganda, even from outside (including *Black Flag*), can get in the former satellite countries, while some class struggle anarchism (and a lot of 'anarcho-punk' stuff) is circulating in the Soviet Union itself.

It is still not appreciated to what an extent repression was sustained in collaboration with Western police—no matter how 'anti-communist' the line was, they always co-operated with the Russian secret police in this respect. The Russian State maintained Communist parties abroad, but any anti-Bolshevik grouping (unless right wing, at first) was under surveillance outside. Though the USSR maintained these were Western-inspired, the truth was very different:



European governments originally supported the Czarists (Hitler was the last, but finally got fed up with them, having a suspicion they were riding on his bandwagon) but neither Europe nor America ever wanted a working class movement to emerge that might overthrow State communism, for fear of what would follow—a real revolution, which sent shudders down their back, or maybe capitalism which would encourage a super-State in commercial rivalry with America. The latter may come, but Europe will welcome it, and both superstates have come to the conclusion that the arms race is crippling them financially.



BAKUNIN WHO?

The 'rehabilitation' of Bolsheviks who fell from grace under Stalin—and what leading State communist did not?—has led to many heart searchings among foreign Stalinists.

The last of the angels-who-became-demons to remain outside the official Valhalla is Trotsky and after so many years of 'trotsky fascist' scatology it's hard to whitewash him again. But this will come: signs are already appearing—he can once more be mentioned historically—when that day comes it will kill off Trotskyism—for what differences will they then have with the USSR?

When Bukharin was 'rehabilitated' some British journalists (who are probably the world's most politically illiterate) thought it was Bakunin who had been given back a halo. That would have been some rehabilitation! The Anarchists cannot exactly be rehabilitated—they were never habilitated (if that's the word) in the first place. They hardly get a fair crack of the whip in Britain in official history or popular press—where anarchist propaganda has been openly carried on for 150 years—or France where it's been possible for 150 years minus five or ten years intervening. So why expect it in Russia where open anarchist propaganda was only possible for under five years in 150?

Bakunin is the toughest nut for them to crack since he came in conflict with Marx who is still a god, albeit with the present benefit of higher criticism. Yet the complete works of Bakunin are now available in Russia (unlike here), while

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